

NATURAL RESOURCES AND CONSERVATION



GREG GIANFORTE, GOVERNOR

1539 ELEVENTH AVENUE

STATE OF MONTANA

DIRECTOR'S OFFICE: (406) 444-2074
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HELENA, MONTANA 59620-1601

DECISION NOTICE ADOPTION OF EXISTING ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

Scobey Water Improvement Project – Phase 2
June 2020
City of Scobey
Lat. 48.791030 Long. -105.420988
Daniels County

Existing Environmental Review Document:
City of Scobey, Water System Improvements Project
USDA Rural Development Environmental Review Acceptance Letter - Attached

Type and Purpose of Action

The City of Scobey is the county seat for Daniels County and is located 14 miles south of the Canadian Border at the junction of Highway 13 and Highway 5 in the Poplar River Basin. The greatest challenge currently facing the City of Scobey is the physical condition of their distribution system. Approximately 48% of their water mains are cast iron pipe approaching 100 years of age. These pipes are rusted and deteriorated to the point that they severely impact the City's water quality and pose a significant health risk. The degradation of water quality is primarily attributed to the rust buildup in the cast iron mains. In addition, the City has experienced the following issues:

- The City loses an average of over 40% of their pumped water annually.
- In 2013, a water leak ran for two days before crews were able to isolate it, shutting down water service to several blocks of the City. In January 2016, a leak in Main Street shut down service to two blocks of downtown for nearly two days and damaged the basement of an adjacent business.
- 16 fire hydrants are inoperable and another 32 hydrants need to be added to the system in order to meet DEQ Circular 1 and NFPA fire code regulations. An 8-block area in the middle of the City does not have coverage from hydrants.
- The City repairs leaks at an average rate of twice the recommended standard by AWWA (0.30 leaks/mile in the City compared to an industry standard of 0.15 leaks/mile). In 2015, the City repaired leaks at a rate of 0.52 leaks/mile of main.
- Many valves in the system are rusted into the open position, making it difficult to isolate sections of the system to repair leaks.
- Water main leaks that occur in areas where leaking underground storage tank (LUST) sites are located can create a backflow of hydrocarbon contaminated soils

into the system. The 2013 leak mentioned above was next to an active LUST site, while the 2016 leak was in an inactive LUST site.

- Fire flows cannot be met in over 53% of the City, including downtown and the school.
- Area soils have eaten away the cast iron mains from the outside, creating “hot spots” where major leaks occur.

The preferred alternative is to replace all cast iron water mains within the system with PVC water mains and upsize the mains to a minimum of 8” diameter.

Construction of the project began June of 2020 and will be completed in March 2022.

Explanation of the decision(s) that must be made regarding the proposed action (i.e. approve grant or loan and provide funding):

DNRC will approve the grant to provide funding for the Scobey Water Improvement Project – Phase 2.

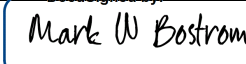
Criteria for Adopting Existing Environmental Review

- ☒ The existing environmental review covers an action paralleling or closely related to the proposed action.
- ☒ The information in the existing environmental review is accurate and clearly presented.
- ☒ The information in the existing environmental review is applicable to the action being considered.
- ☒ All appropriate Agencies were consulted during preparation of the existing environmental review.
- ☒ Alternatives to the proposed action evaluated as part of the existing environmental review effort.
- ☒ The impacts of the proposed action been accurately identified as part of the existing environmental review.
- ☒ The existing environmental review identifies any significant impacts as a result of the proposed action and those identified will they be mitigated below the level of significance.

Adopt

The existing environmental review can be considered sufficient to satisfy DNRC’s MEPA review responsibilities. No further analysis needed.

Existing Analysis Reviewed By:	Name: Erin Wall Title: ARPA Program Specialist Email: Erin.wall@mt.gov Date: 3/25/2022
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Approved By:	Name: Mark Bostrom Title: CARDD Division Administrator
Signature:	DocuSigned by:  Date: 4/5/2022 12:19:40 PM MDT <small>BF7A1C50B2AF4DE...</small>

Environmental Review Documents and the Decision Notice for this project are available to the general public by request at the Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC), Conservation and Resource Development Division (CARDD) at 1539 11th Ave, Helena, MT. Phone (406) 444-3022



United States Department of Agriculture

TO: Eleanor Kindness, Area Specialist, Billings, Montana

FROM: Ed Everaert, P.E., State Environmental Coordinator/State Engineer

DATE: April 26, 2018

SUBJECT: City of Scobey, Water System Improvements Project

I have reviewed the Project Reports for the City of Scobey, Water System Improvements Project and have made the following determinations:

CONCURRENCE WITH CLASSIFICATION OF PROPOSAL

Categorical Exclusion (4-25-2018) with an Environmental Report (7 CFR 1970.54).

No extraordinary circumstances exist (7 CFR 1970.52)

ACCEPTANCE OF ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT/ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION

The Final April 2018 Environmental Report and documentation are acceptable and meet USDA RD requirements.

PUBLIC NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

No public notices were required for the Categorical Exclusion. Public meetings were held for the PER, ER, and Preferred Alternative for the proposed Project.

If there are any questions or concerns, please contact me at richard.everaert@mt.usda.gov or call me at 406-585-2532.

cc: Steve Troendle, Community Programs Director
Karen Sanchez, State Engineer

Rural Development • Montana State Office
2229 Boot Hill Court • Bozeman, MT 59715
Voice (406) 585-2580 • Fax 855-576-2674

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Categorical Exclusion Form**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE RURAL DEVELOPMENT
ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST FOR CATEGORICAL EXCLUSIONS**

1. APPLICANT NAME: City of Scobey			
2. NAME OF PROPOSAL (provide brief description): "City of Scobey – Replace and upsize deteriorated cast iron water mains within the system with minimum 8-inch diameter PVC water mains." 1970.54 (b)(2), Small Scale Corridor Development, Improvement and Expansion of Existing water, Waste Water, and Gas Utility Systems			
3. ADDRESS OR GENERAL LOCATION OF PROPOSAL: 708 1st Avenue West, Scobey, MT 59263			
4. FEDERAL ACTION:	Loan <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Grant <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Guarantee <input type="checkbox"/> Construction Work Plan or Loan/System Design <input type="checkbox"/>
5. APPLICABLE RD PROGRAM: Water and Waste Disposal Program			
6. THIS PROPOSAL QUALIFIES AS A CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 1970.53 — OR § 1970.54 (b)(2)			
7. *ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT PREPARED FOR RD: YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> * This form can be used to document the consideration and incorporation by reference of environmental information from any source			
8. Section 106 Findings: No Potential to Affect <input type="checkbox"/> No Adverse Effect to Historic Properties <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Historic Properties Affected <input type="checkbox"/>			
9. Endangered Species Act, Section 7 Findings: Species/Habitat - Not Present <input type="checkbox"/> Species/Habitat Present - May Affect, Not Likely to Adversely Affect <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Species/Habitat - No Effect <input type="checkbox"/>			
10. IF PREPARED, ATTACH ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT (SEE EXHIBIT C) For the items listed below, indicate either a "Yes" or "No" in the appropriate columns. If the answer is "Yes" in the "Adversely Affected" column for any listed resources, then an extraordinary circumstance exists and the proposed action is not eligible for a Categorical Exclusion.			

(00-00-00) SPECIAL PN

RD Instruction 1970-B

Exhibit D

Page 2

Table (Con.)

Resources	Resources Present		Effects to Resources		
	Yes	No	No Effect	Affected	Adversely Affected
a. Historic Properties/Cultural Resources (Historic Properties listed or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places, sites of cultural or religious significance to tribes)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Threatened or Endangered Species, Critical Habitat, State Listed Species	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. Wetlands	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. Floodplains (100 or 500 year floodplains)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e. Formally Classified Lands (State/Federal Parks, Monuments, Natural Landmarks, Wilderness Areas, Wild and Scenic Rivers, National Forest System Lands, other Federal or State Lands, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
f. Water Resources (Sole Source Aquifers, Well-head protection areas, Watershed Protection Areas, etc.)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
g. Coastal Resources (Coastal Barrier Resources System or Coastal Zone Management Areas)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
h. Coral Reefs or Protected aquatic habitats (Only applies to American Samoa, Florida, Guam, Hawaii, Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico, U.S. Virgin Islands)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Questions	Yes	No			
i. Is the proposal located on Important Farmland (Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, Farmland of Statewide Importance, Farmland of Local Importance) and if so, has Form AD-1006 been completed?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			
j. Does the project threaten a violation of local, state, or federal statutory, regulatory, or permitting requirements?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
Have all necessary permits been identified?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			
k. Is the proposal located within EPA-designated Non Attainment or Maintenance Areas for Air Quality Criteria Pollutants?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
l. Does the proposal result in the production of unpermitted hazardous materials or waste, or consist of construction of a new RCRA hazardous materials handling facility?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			

Table (Con.)

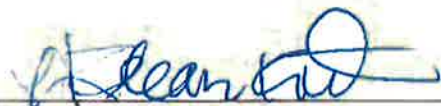
m. Does the proposal have any Environmental Justice concerns or disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects on minority populations or low-income populations?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
n. Is the proposal controversial for environmental reasons? If so, attach a summary of the controversy(ies) and any actions taken and resolutions necessary to respond to the concerns.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
o. Is the proposal controversial for other than environmental reasons? If so, attach a summary of the controversy(ies) and any actions taken and resolutions necessary to respond to the concerns.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

11. FINDING:

I find that the proposal meets the criteria §1970.54 (b)(2), Small Scale Corridor Development, Improvement and Expansion of Existing Wastewater Systems. Upon review of the proposal's description or the Environmental Report I find that the proposal is consistent with 40 CFR §1508.4, "Categorical Exclusion" and does not have any extraordinary circumstances or that the proposal individually or cumulatively does not have a significant effect on the human environment and, therefore, neither an Environmental Assessment nor an Environmental Impact Statement is required.

RD Instruction 1970-B
Exhibit D
Page 4

12. SIGNATURES:



12a. SIGNATURE OF PREPARER

4/25/18

DATE

Eleanor Kindness

NAME OF PREPARER

Area Specialist

TITLE



12b. SIGNATURE OF STATE ENVIRONMENTAL
COORDINATOR OR NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL STAFF

4/25/2018

DATE

ED EVERAERT

NAME OF STATE ENVIRONMENTAL COORDINATOR OR
NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL STAFF

SEC

TITLE



12c. SIGNATURE OF APPROVING OFFICIAL

4/25/2018

DATE

STEVE TROENTLE

NAME OF APPROVING OFFICIAL

Community Program Director

TITLE

J:\2-15105 - Scobey On-Call 2015\TO 7-2016 Water PER\CADD 2-15105-TO 7-PER\Exhibits\2-15105-TO7-RD APE Map.dwg

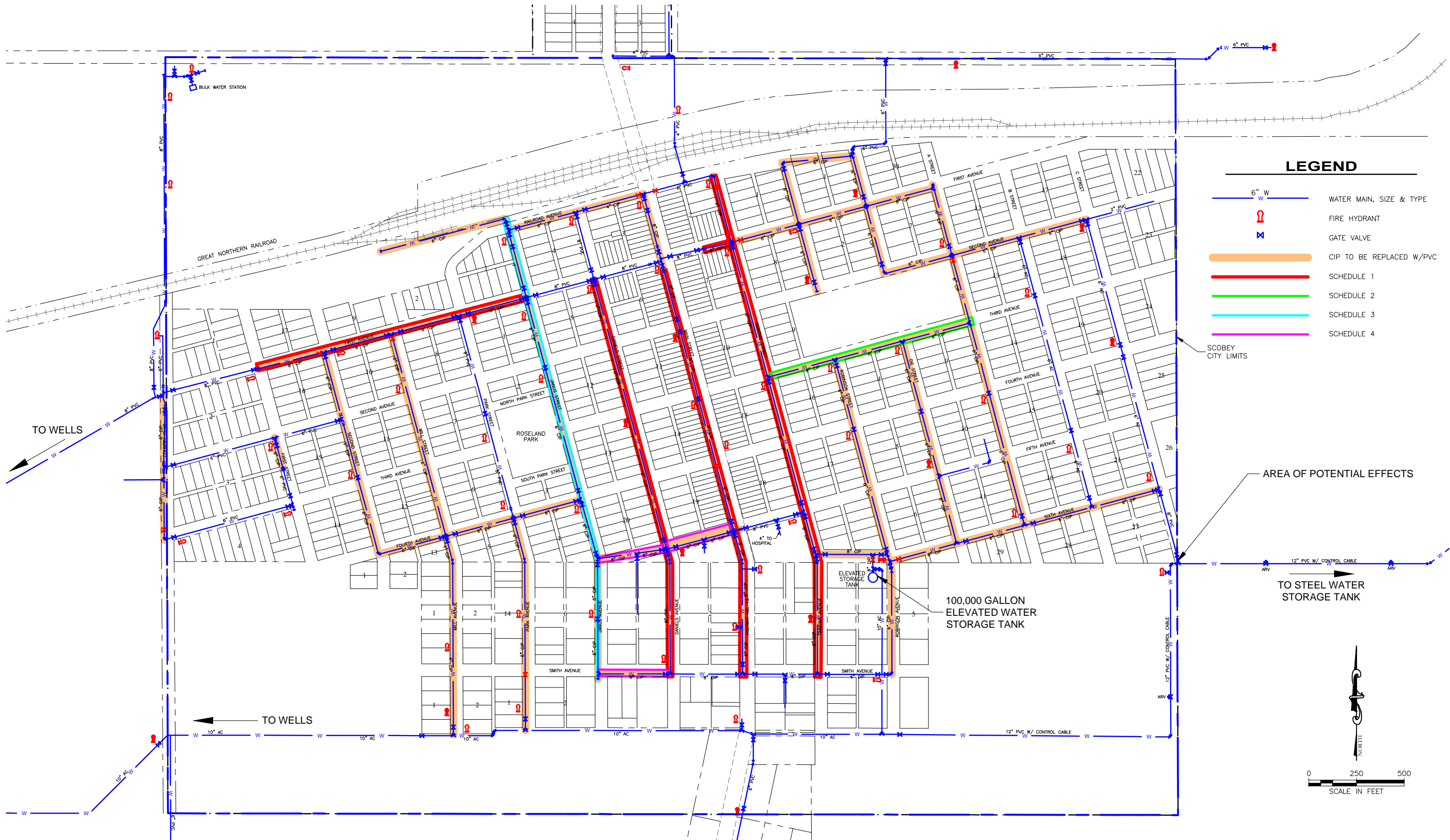


Figure 4.1
Area of Potential Effects

CITY OF SCOBEE, MONTANA
2016 WATER SYSTEM PER